

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. _____

To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces in Syria to prevent and deter the further use of chemical weapons in Syria or by Syria against any other group or country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces in Syria to prevent and deter the further use of chemical weapons in Syria or by Syria against any other group or country.

Whereas, on August 21, 2013, the Syrian government carried out a chemical weapons attack in the suburbs of Damascus, Syria, killing more than 1,000 innocent Syrians;

Whereas these flagrant actions were in violation of international norms and the laws of war;

Whereas the United States and 188 other countries comprising 98 percent of the world's population are parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, or use of chemical weapons;

Whereas, in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, Congress found that Syria's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction threatens the security of the Middle East and the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1540 (2004), affirmed that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons constitutes a threat to international peace and security;

Whereas, the objective of the United States' use of military force in connection with this authorization should be to deter and prevent the future use of chemical weapons;

Whereas military action limited in duration, scope, and purpose is necessary to prevent the continued use of chemical weapons;

Whereas, the conflict in Syria will only be resolved through a negotiated political settlement, and Congress calls on all parties to the conflict in Syria to participate urgently and constructively in the Geneva process; and

Whereas, unified action by the legislative and executive branches will send a clear signal of American resolve: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This joint resolution may be cited as the “Authoriza-
5 tion for Limited Use of Military Force Against Syria Res-
6 olution”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES**
2 **ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to the limitations set
4 forth in this joint resolution, the President is authorized
5 to use the United States Armed Forces in Syria to prevent
6 and deter the further use of chemical weapons in Syria
7 or by Syria against any other group or country.

8 (b) LIMITATION.—The authority granted in sub-
9 section (a) excludes the authority to deploy United States
10 Armed Forces on the ground in Syria except with respect
11 to efforts to rescue United States personnel.

12 (c) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—

13 (1) SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.—
14 Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers
15 Resolution, the Congress declares that this section is
16 intended to constitute specific statutory authoriza-
17 tion with the meaning of section 5(b) of the War
18 Powers Resolution.

19 (2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIRE-
20 MENTS.—Nothing in this joint resolution supersedes
21 any requirement of the War Powers Resolution.

22 **SEC. 3. SUNSET.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the au-
24 thority granted in section 2(a) shall expire upon the con-
25 clusion of each military action conducted by the United
26 States Armed Forces beginning after the initial military

1 action conducted by the United States Armed Forces, un-
2 less the President certifies to Congress in writing with re-
3 spect to such subsequent military action that the Presi-
4 dent finds with high confidence that Syria has used chem-
5 ical weapons since the conclusion of the immediately pre-
6 ceding military action conducted by the United States
7 Armed Forces.

8 (b) FINAL SUNSET.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
9 vision of law, the authority granted in section 2(a) shall
10 expire on the date that is 60 days after the date of the
11 enactment of this joint resolution.